

To: Michigan Senate Committee on Reforms, Restructuring and Reinventing

From: Michigan Health & Hospital Association

Contact: Neil Mac Vicar, Vice President
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Re: Unemployment Compensation Bills — House Bills 4949-4954

I am writing on behalf of the hospitals and other healthcare employers represented by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's Unemployment Compensation Program [MHA-UCP]. The MHA-UCP currently represents over 300 healthcare employers throughout Michigan.¹

The Senate Committee on Reforms, Restructuring and Reinventing is currently considering House Bills 4949-4954. The MHA-UCP's members support this Committee's consideration and passage of the bills.

In particular, the MHA-UCP strongly supports HB 4949 as it will protect employers against unemployment fraud and helps preserve the assets of Michigan's unemployment trust fund. HB 4949 ensures that employers obtain relief from fraudulent claims from the date the fraud first started. HB 4949 also protects employers from liability on "successive" unemployment claims that are established in whole or in part on a claimant's prior acts of unemployment fraud.

The MHA-UCP also strongly supports HB 4952 which disqualifies a claimant currently receiving unemployment benefits after a positive pre-employment drug test or refusing to take a pre-employment drug test, as part of a conditional job offer. HB 4952 also helps preserve the assets of the Michigan unemployment trust fund and helps Michigan employers ensure that they hire qualified candidates and applicants.

In summary, the MHA-UCP supports the package of unemployment compensation bills listed as House Bills 4949-4954. We will gladly answer any questions and provide additional information as necessary.

¹ The healthcare employers represented by the MHA-UCP include hospitals, healthcare systems, nursing care facilities, rehabilitation centers, hospice care organizations, home health care groups, physician clinics, and healthcare insurers.